

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EOCN, OECD

SUBJ: KISSINGER GROWTH STUDY: BACKGROUND ON ATILLA
KARAOSMANOGLU

REF: OECD PARIS 23235

1. ATILLA KARAOSMANOGLU WAS BORN SEPTEMBER 20, 1932, IN
MANISA. HE IS MARRIED WITH ONE SON. HIS WIFE, SUKRIYE,
WAS FORMERLY A NURSE. HIS COMMAND OF ENGLISH IS EXCELLENT.

2. AFTER GRADUATING FROM THE POLITICAL SCIENCE FACULTY AT
ANKARA UNIVERSITY, KARAOSMANOGLU ATTENDED HARVARD
UNIVERSITY (1957-58) AND NEW YORK UNIVERSITY (1958-59),
ASSISTED BY AN AID GRANT.

3. KARAOSMANOGLU IS REGARDED AS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND DYNAMIC,
HE ROSE TO PROMINENCE IN TURKISH ECONOMIC CIRCLES AT A
RELATIVELY EARLY AGE. HE TOOK AN ACTIVE PART IN FOUNDING THE
STATE PLANNING ORGANIZATION IN 1960 AND WAS ONE OF THE PRIN-
CIPAL AUTHORS OF THE TURKISH FIRST FIVE-YEAR DEVELOPMENT PLAN
IN 1962. HOWEVER, HE RESIGNED FROM THE STATE PLANNING OFFICE
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SHORTLY THEREAFTER BECAUSE OF THE GOT DEVIATED FROM SOME FEATURES

OF THE PLAN. AFTER LEAVING THE SPO KARAOSMANOGLU WAS AN ECONOMIC WRITER WITH THE DAILY NEWSPAPER, CUMHURIYET (1962-63) AND WITH YON, A SOCIALIST MAGAZINE (1962-63). HE WAS A SCIENTIFIC AFFAIRS DIRECTOR FOR THE OECD PARIS (1964) AND AN ECONOMIST WITH IBRD WASHINGTON (1965-71). KARAOSMANOGLU WAS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE "ABOVE PARTIES" GOVERNMENT OF PRIME MINISTER NIHA ERIM DURING THE PERIOD MARCH-DECEMBER 1971. HE SUBSEQUENTLY RETURNED TO THE IBRD.

4. EARLY IN HIS CAREER, KARAOSMANOGLU WAS REGARDED AS A DOCTRINAIRE SOCIALIST, BUT HE IS CONSIDERED TO HAVE MELLOWED AS A RESULT OF HIS EXPERIENCE IN THE OECD AND WORLD BANK. DURING HIS VARIOUS POSITIONS IN TURKEY, KARAOSMANOGLU SHOWED "ETATIST" AND NATIONALIST INCLINATIONS. WHEN HE WAS DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MANY FOREIGN OBSERVERS AND LOCAL BUSINESSMEN BELIEVED THAT HE REFLECTED A BASIC MISTRUST OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND RELATIONSHIPS WITH FOREIGN ENTREPRENEURS. PUBLICLY, HOWEVER, KARAOSMANOGLU ASSERTED THAT WITHIN TURKEY'S "MIXED ECONOMY" THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND STATE ECONOMIC ENTERPRISES "MUST OPERATE SIDE BY SIDE WITHOUT EXPLOITING EACH OTHER". REGARDING FOREIGN INVESTMENT IN TURKEY, KARAOSMANOGLU'S STATED POLICIES WERE SIMILAR TO THOSE HELD GENERALLY BY PREVIOUS AND SUBSEQUENT TURKISH GOVERNMENTS, I.E., THAT PRIVATE FOREIGN INVESTMENT WAS WELCOME AS LONG AS IT MADE A POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO THE TURKISH ECONOMY AND TO THE EXTENT THAT DOMESTIC CAPITAL WAS INSUFFICIENT.

5. THE EMBASSY HAS HAD VIRTUALLY NO INFORMATION ABOUT KARAOSMANOGLU SINCE 1971 WHEN HE RETURNED TO THE IBRD WASHINGTON OR ABOUT HIS EARLY SERVICE WITH THE IBRD (1965-71). POSSIBLY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REGARDING HIS ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDE CAN BE PROVIDED BY WASHINGTON PERSONNEL WHO MAY HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH HIM IN HIS POSITION AT THE IBRD.

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